THE GILA DESERT. ARIZONA.
THE MORNING AIR HERE IS CRISP AND COLD--
--SO UNLIKE THE THICK AND HUMID JUNGLE ENVIRON OF THE SAVAGE LAND.
THOUGH I REVELLED IN MY TIME IN THAT PREHISTORIC WORLD*--
--IT IS GOOD TO FINALLY RETURN HOME TO A PLACE WHERE THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS ARE FAMIL--
WAIT-- ARE THOSE FOOTSTEPS BELOW ME?
RUST NEVER SLEEPS
A TALE OF RAMPANT TECHNOLOGY CUT WITH MACHINE-LIKE PRECISION BY
JOHN FRANCIS MOORE WRITER
ANDY CANDELARIO INKER
TOM SMITH COLORIST
and BOBBIE CHASE • HEAD MECHANIC
SON LIM PENCILER
JANICE CHIANG LETTERER
JOEY CAVALIERI SQUEAKY WHEEL
*DOOM 2099 #19-23. --JOEY

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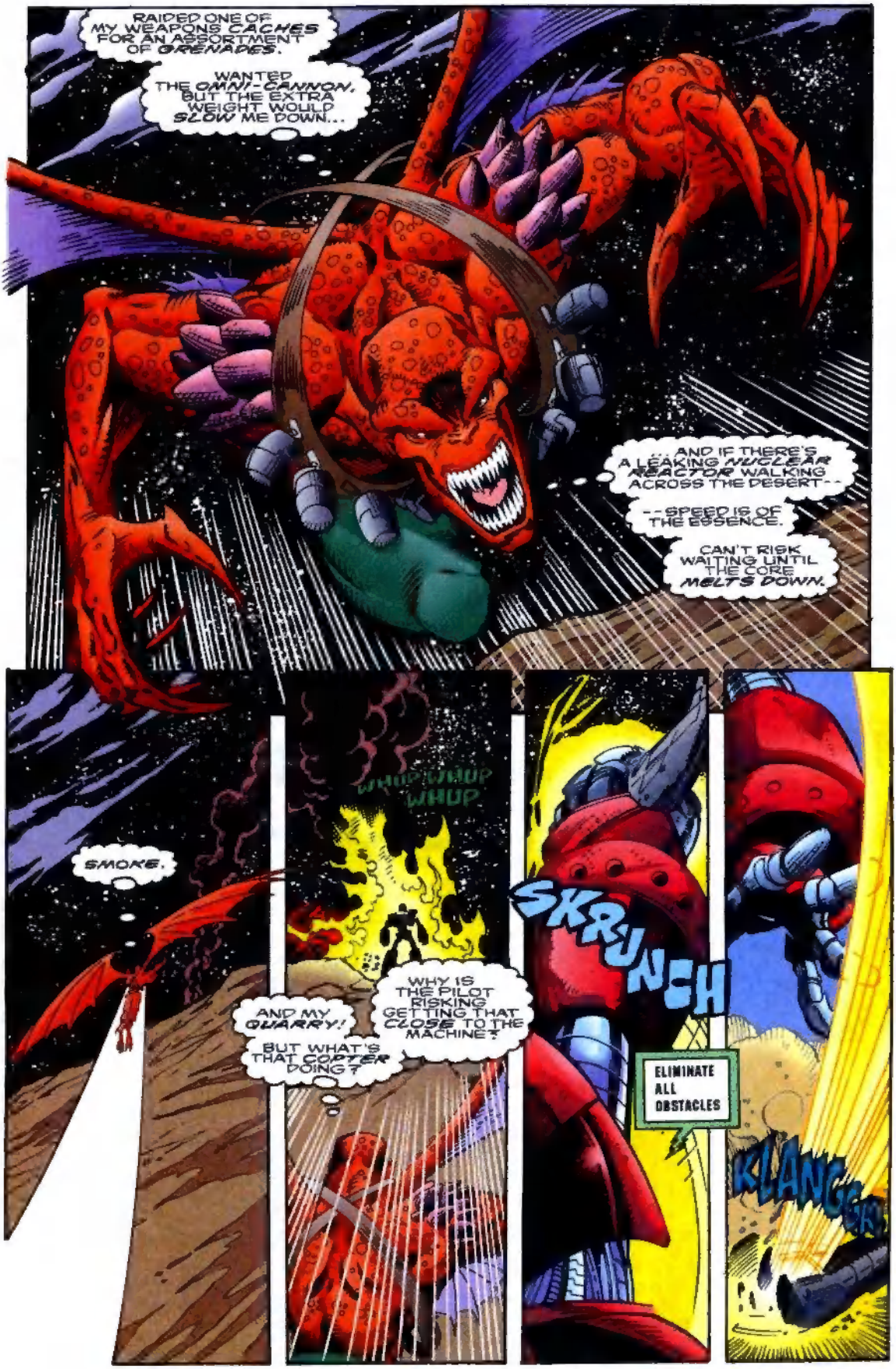
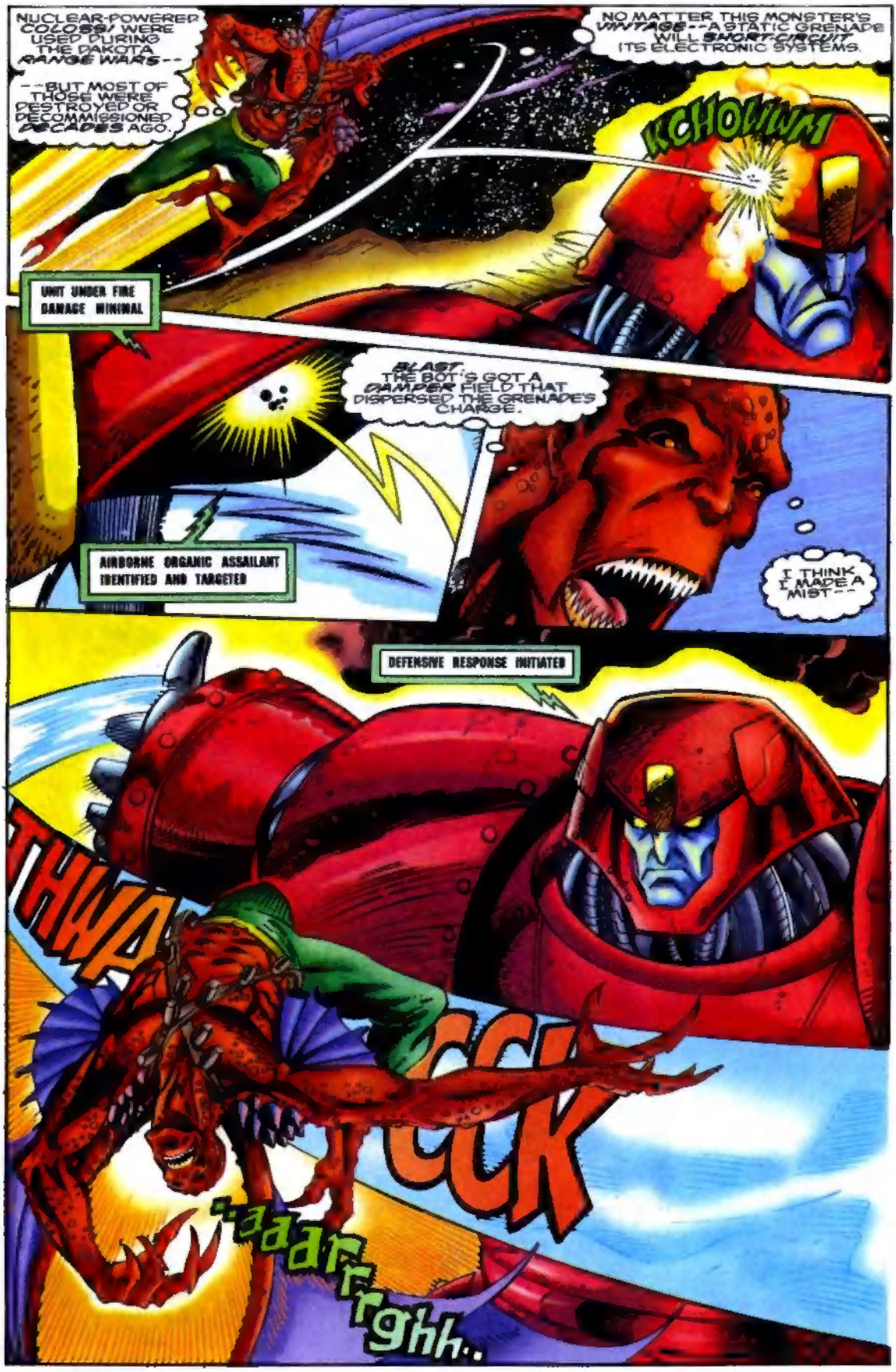
PRIMARY SYSTEM DAMAGED
BACKUP SYSTEM UNAVAILABLE
FAILSAFE DIRECTIVE ACTIVATED:
RETURNING TO POINT OF ORIGIN
--RUN, YOU STUPID MOTHER--
--BAD PLACE FOR A BATHROOM STOP!
--I AM RUNNING--
KRONCH!!
--JUST STEPPED ON TYRELL'S '89 DOMINATRUX--
--LEFT TAIWAN TO AVOID HEAVY METAL TINKER TOYS--

FAILSAFE DIRECTIVE IMPERATIVE: ELIMINATE ALL OBSTACLES
NO! NOT MY MAYBELLINE! PLEASE... SHE WAS ALMOST PAID FOR!
GET DOWN, CY--
--BEFORE ALL YOUR LIQUID NITROGEN CARGO EXPLO--
BAHWHOM!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, LOU ANNE.
GUESS DEEP DOWN YOU STILL CARE...
SHUT UP AND GET AN EXTINGUISHER, CY. I THINK I'M ON FIRE!

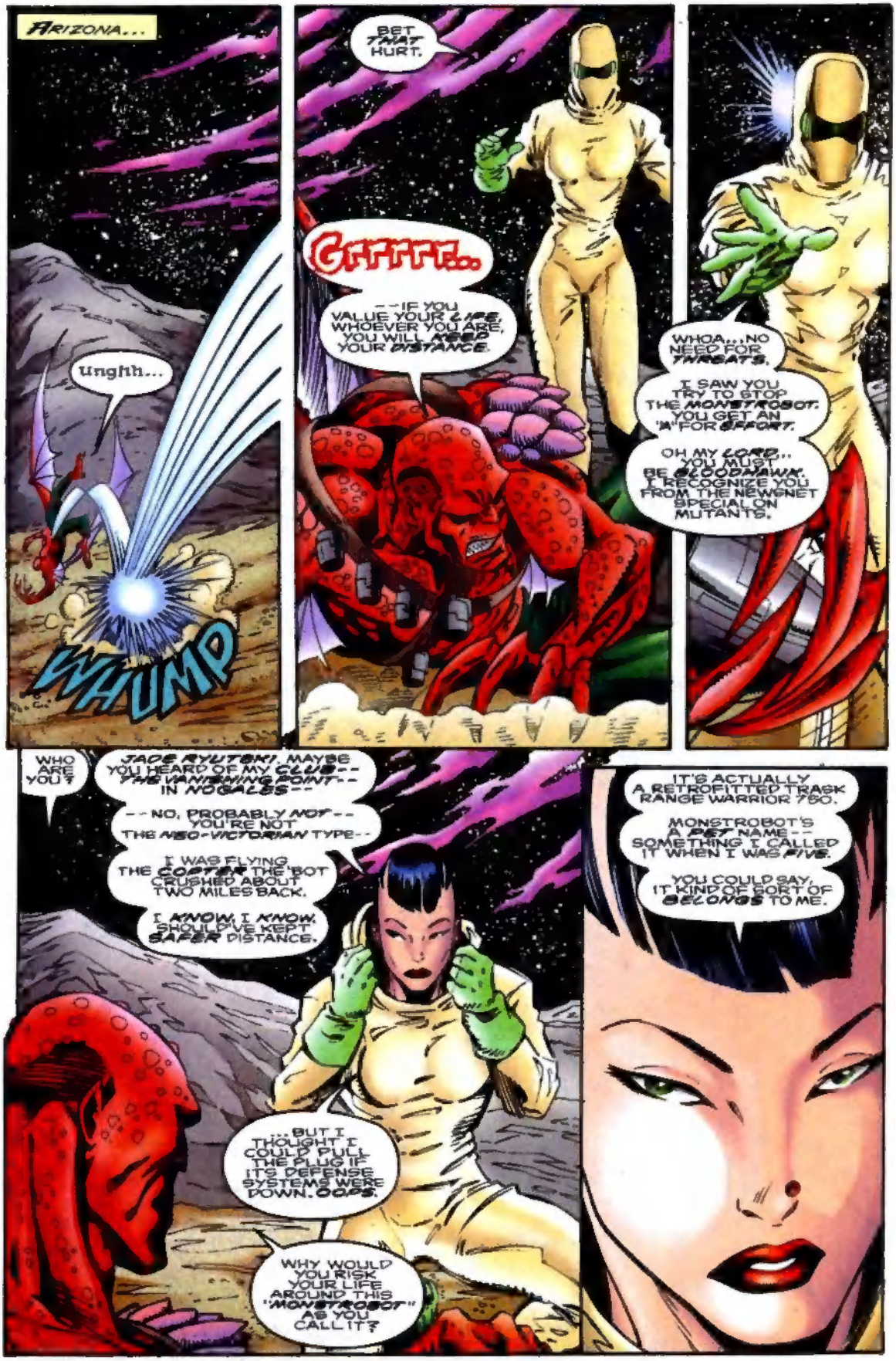

RAIDED ONE OF MY WEAPONS CACHES FOR AN ASSORTMENT OF GRENADES.
WANTED THE OMNI-CANNON, BUT THE EXTRA WEIGHT WOULD SLOW ME DOWN...
... AND IF THERE'S A LEAKING NUCLEAR REACTOR WALKING ACROSS THE DESERT--
--SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE.
CAN'T RISK WAITING UNTIL THE CORE MELTS DOWN.
SMOKE.
WHUP WHUP WHUP
AND MY QUARRY!
BUT WHAT'S THAT COPTER DOING?
WHY IS THE PILOT RISKING GETTING THAT CLOSE TO THE MACHINE?
SKRUNCH
ELIMINATE ALL OBSTACLES
KLANG


NUCLEAR-POWERED COLOSSI WERE USED DURING THE DAKOTA RANGE WARS--
--BUT MOST OF THOSE WERE DESTROYED OR DECOMMISSIONED DECADES AGO.
NO MATTER THIS MONSTER'S VINTAGE--A STATIC GRENADE WILL SHORT-CIRCUIT ITS ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.
KCHOWWM
UNIT UNDER FIRE DAMAGE MINIMAL
BLAST. THE BOT'S GOT A DAMPER FIELD THAT DISPERSED THE GRENADE'S CHARGE.
AIRBORNE ORGANIC ASSAILANT IDENTIFIED AND TARGETED
I THINK I MADE A MIST--
DEFENSIVE RESPONSE INITIATED
THWA
CK
"aarrghh..

FIFTY FEET UNDERNEATH THE HILLS OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.
OKAY, I ADMIT IT. I MADE A MISTAKE, ZAK. SO SUE ME.
YOU DIDN'T JUST MAKE A MISTAKE, KRYSTALIN. YOU BROKE THE LAW--
YOU'RE MY BROTHER. YOU WERE IN TROUBLE. I WANTED TO HELP...
MAN! SOME HELP...
NOW WE'RE BOTH PRISONERS OF THE FREE RADICALS.
IF YOU WERE ONE OF MY PANTHERS, YOU'D HAVE KNOWN NEVER TO TRUST THESE TERRORISTS.
WE PREFER THE TERM TECHNO-ANARCHIST.
WHEN THEY THREATENED TO KILL YOU, ZAK, I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.
STILL, I THOUGHT THEY'D KEEP THEIR END OF THE BARGAIN, AND LET YOU GO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR DEAL, RAINMAKER?
DIDN'T KARMA TELL YOU?
WHILE YOU WERE IN ALAMEDA CORRECTIONAL*, WE CHANGED OUR MINDS.
WHAT CAN I SAY? LIFE'S NOT FAIR.
*LAST ISSUE. --JOEY
YOU KNOW, IF CIRCUMSTANCES WERE REVERSED--
--YOUR BROTHER-- THE PANTHER MINISTER-- WOULD GLADLY IMPRISON EACH OF US.
WHAT DAZE IS TRYING TO SAY IS THAT KARMIC JUSTICE IS AT WORK HERE.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I RISKED MY LIFE BREAKING YOUR LEADER OUT OF THE DETENTION CENTER--

DON'T THINK WE DON'T APPRECIATE IT, BILLY ZEDD'S THE MACHINIST WHO ASSEMBLED OUR MERRY BAND OF POLITICAL PRANKSTERS.
HE'S TOO YOUNG AND TOO GIFTED TO BE DOING HARD TIME.
WITHOUT HIM, I COULDN'T HAVE MINIATURIZED THE TECH THAT ALLOWS ME TO MOVE IN AND OUT OF DIMENSIONAL SYNC.
YEAH, EVERYBODY OWES ME HERE. I DIDN'T SIMPLY UPGRADE THE HARDWARE--
--I TAUGHT THE RADS THAT TO FIGHT INSTITUTIONALIZED OPPRESSION LIKE THE PANTHERS--
--YOU HAVE TO USE EVERY TOOL AT YOUR DISPOSAL--
OR IN MY CASE-- IN YOUR WEATHERWORN BUT STILL FUNCTIONAL MAGIK BAG.
ARE YOU GOING TO SAVOOT US WITH THAT?
ARE YOU ON A CHAINTAG, GRANNY, OR JUST GOING SENILE IN YOUR OLD AGE?
DUH-- THIS IS A MULTIPURPOSE POWERTOOL-- NOT A WEAPON.
WITH THIS WONDER OF SCIENCE I CAN MAKE MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS.
Whrrrrrrr
Shhhhhh
OR SATELLITES OUT OF SCRAP METAL AND SILICON SCAVENGE.
GOING TO SEED MORE CLOUDS WITH HALLUCINOGENS, BILLY? DOSE ANOTHER CITY THE WAY YOU DID OAKLAND?
NAW. BEEN THERE. DONE THAT.
THIS SATELLITE OF LOVE'S PRIMED TO DELIVER AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE THAT WILL BLANKET HALF THE STATE.
AND I'VE PIGGYBACKED SOME ATMOSPHERIC PYROTECHNICS FOR VISUAL EFFECT.
YOU PSYCHOTIC LITTLE BRAT! AN EMPULSE WILL DESTROY MOST OF THE REGIONAL POWERGRID--
DON'T YOU KNOW THE CHAOS YOU'LL CREATE-- THE LIVES YOU'LL ENDANGER!

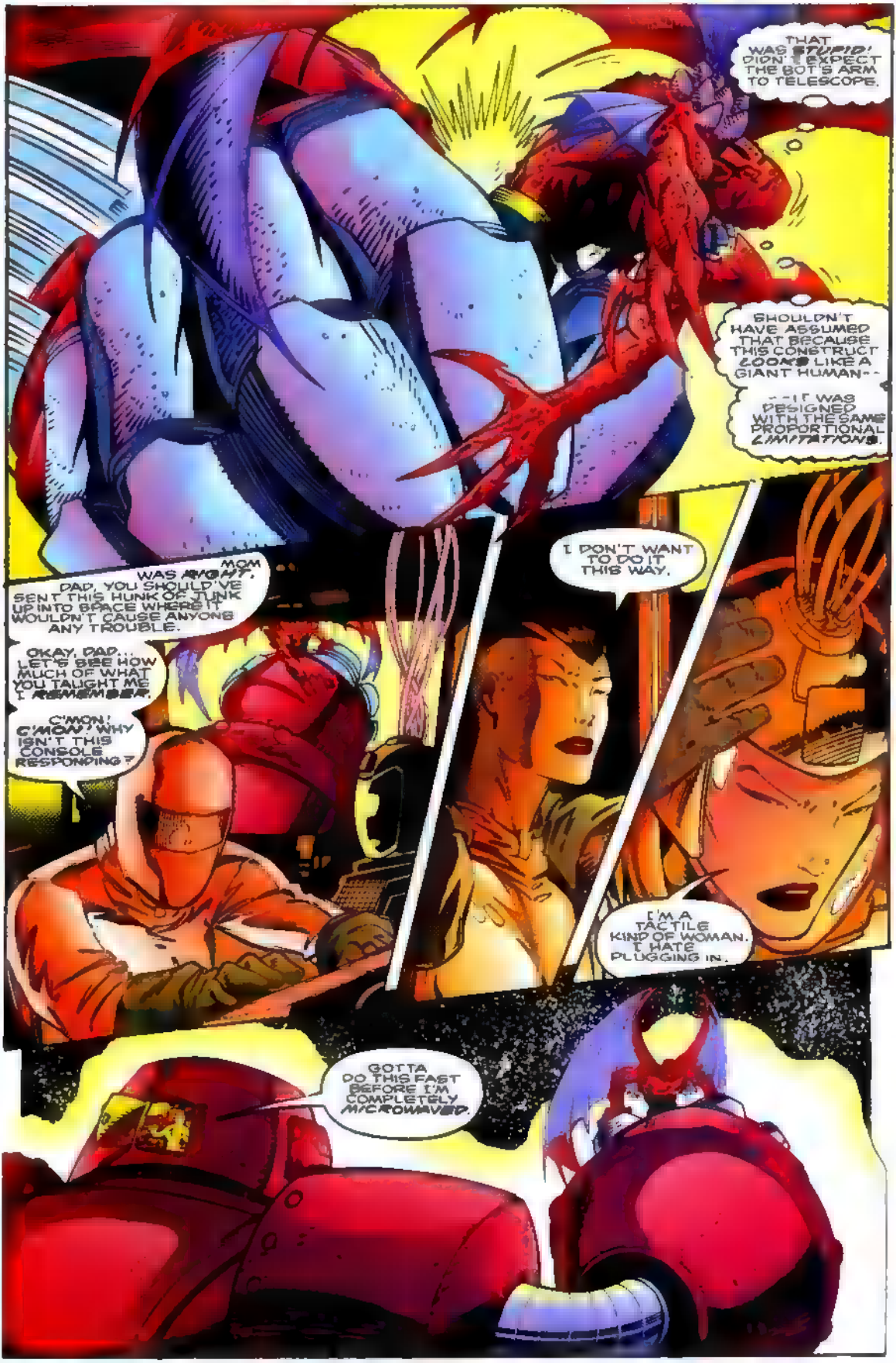
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING, TOPCAT--
--SCRAGGING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE OF THE RULING CLASS--
--DESTROYING THE ELECTRONIC MEANS OF OPPRESSION.
ANARCHY MEANS FREEDOM.
SAVE A BOY WHOSE VOICE IS STILL CRACKING, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THE WORLD REALLY RUNS, KID--
YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES, OGAPA. I THINK YOU ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF A LITTLE ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT.
TRANCE.
WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, ZAKARI! OGAPA. YOU NEVER LEARN.
DON'T LET THE DRAGON LADY SEE EYES ON YOU, ZAK.
YOUR BROTHER CANNOT REDIRECT THE HYPNOTIC LIGHT OF MY OCULAR IMPLANTS.
NOR WILL YOU WHEN YOUR TIME COMES.
CLOSE YOUR EYES, ZAK! CLOSE YOUR EYES!


ARIZONA...
Unghh...
WHUMP
BET THAT HURT.
Grrrrr...
--IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU WILL NEED YOUR DISTANCE.
WHOA...NO NEED FOR THREATS.
I SAW YOU TRY TO STOP THE MONSTROBOT. YOU GET AN 'A' FOR EFFORT.
OH MY LORD.. YOU MUST BE BLOODWAVE. I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM THE NEWSNET SPECIAL ON MUTANTS.
WHO ARE YOU?
JADE RYUTOKI. MAYBE YOU HEARD OF MY CLUB-- THE VANISHING POINT-- IN NOGALES--
--NO, PROBABLY NOT-- YOU'RE NOT THE NEO-VICTORIAN TYPE--
I WAS FLYING THE COPTER THE 'BOT CRUSHED ABOUT TWO MILES BACK.
I KNOW, I KNOW. SHOULD'VE KEPT SAFER DISTANCE.
...BUT I THOUGHT I COULD PULL THE PLUG IF ITS DEFENSE SYSTEMS WERE DOWN. OOPS.
WHY WOULD YOU RISK YOUR LIFE AROUND THIS "MONSTROBOT" AS YOU CALL IT?
IT'S ACTUALLY A RETROFITTED TRASK RANGE WARRIOR 760.
MONSTROBOT'S A PET NAME-- SOMETHING I CALLED IT WHEN I WAS FIVE.
YOU COULD SAY, IT KIND OF SORT OF BELONGS TO ME.

WEEELLLL, TECHNICALLY, I INHERITED IT.
BUT I NEVER REALLY WANTED IT. I MEAN, WHERE WOULD I KEEP ANYTHING THAT BIG--
STILL, IT HAS A CERTAIN SENTIMENTAL VALUE.
YOU SEE, MY FATHER OWNED JORURI ROBOTICS.
HE MADE A FORTUNE DESIGNING COMPACT DOMESTIC DRONES--
--BUT HIS REAL LOVE WAS FOR ANTIQUE RANGE WAR COLOSSI.
"WHEN HE HAULED THIS ONE OUT OF A FARGO METAL YARD, HE POURED HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO REBUILDING IT.
"WHEN STARK/FUJIKAWA LAUNCHED A HOSTILE TAKEOVER AGAINST JORURI--
"--HE BURIED THE MONSTROBOT IN THE DESERT TO PREVENT HIS PRIDE AND JOY FROM BEING CLAIMED BY THE S/F RAIDERS.
"WHEN THE 'BOT CLIMBED OUT OF THE GROUND TWO DAYS AGO, IT SET OFF AN ALARM MY FATHER SET UP.
"AND SINCE DAD'S NOT AROUND ANYMORE TO CLEAN UP THE MESS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FALLS ON ME."
YOUR FATHER'S TOY IS POISONING THE LAND.
DAD WAS BECOMING FORGETFUL WHEN HE BURIED THE 'BOT. I'M SURE HE MEANT TO REMOVE THE NUCLEAR BATTERY.
BUT I CAN CONTAIN THE RADIATION LEAKS IF I CAN GET THE AUTO-REPAIR PROGRAM ON-LINE.
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO DO THAT?

THESE BRAND MODELS HAVE A SMALL CONTROL BRIDGE LOCATED IN THEIR HEADS.
IF I CAN GET IN, I CAN SHUT THE THING DOWN.
THE RADIATION LEVELS WILL BE INTENSE.
I'M NOT WEARING THIS RAD SUIT AS A FASHION STATEMENT.
LET US HOPE THAT WHERE ONE GRENADE HAD NO EFFECT--FOUR WILL PROVIDE THE DISTRACTION WE NEED--
KCHOW
KCHOW
KCHOW
KCHOW
--FOR YOU TO GET INSIDE ITS HEAD.
IT'S WORKING. THE BOT'S MEDITATING.
SYSTEMS INTERFERENCE CORRECTING
I'M ON. GET OUT OF ARM'S REACH BEFORE IT DOES TO YOU WHAT HE DID TO MY COPTER.
CAREFUL, GIRL. THAT CLOSE TO THE POWER CORE YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THAT SUIT BECOMES RADIATION SATURATED.

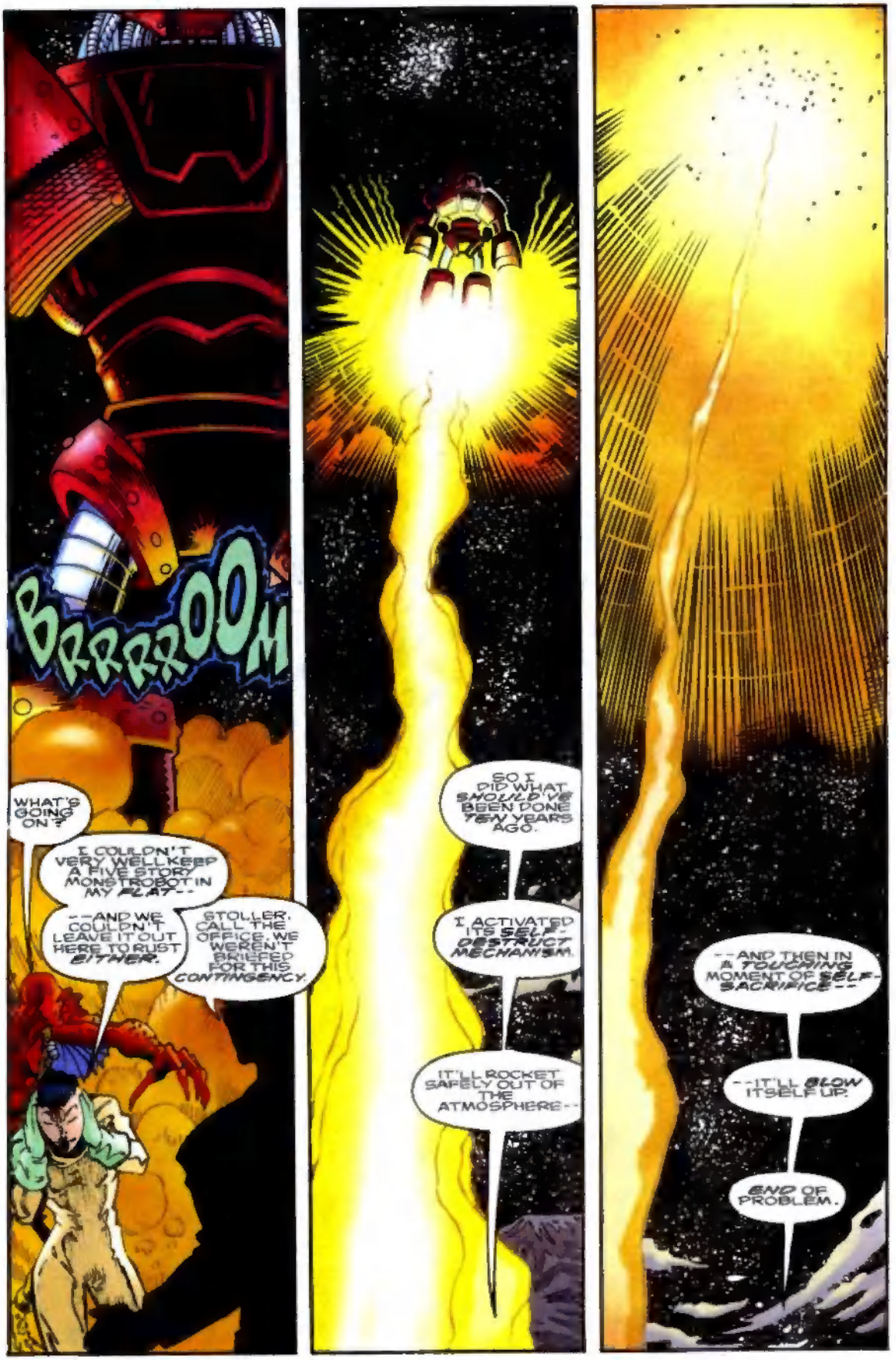
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
I CLIMBED IN AND OUT OF THE MONSTROBOT ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS A--
SYSTEM EFFICIENCY RESTORED
WHOA...
OH SHOCK-- THE BOT'S TRYING TO BRUSH ME OFF--
GOTTA HOLD ON. THIS RAD SUIT'S NOT GONNA PROTECT ME FROM A FIVE STORY DROP.
UNAUTHORIZED SYSTEM HOUSING ENTRY UNDERWAY
THE GIRL NEEDS TIME TO GET INSIDE THE CREATURE'S HEAD.
TOO BAD I CAN'T USE THE STATIC GRENADES WITHOUT INJURING HER.
I'LL HAVE TO DISTRACT THE 'BOT AT CLOSER RANGE.
TRACKING AIRBORNE THREAT
MA! TOO SLOW, RUSTBUCKET!
WHEW-- I'M IN!
UH OH. THIS IS A BIGGER MESS THAN I IMAGINED.

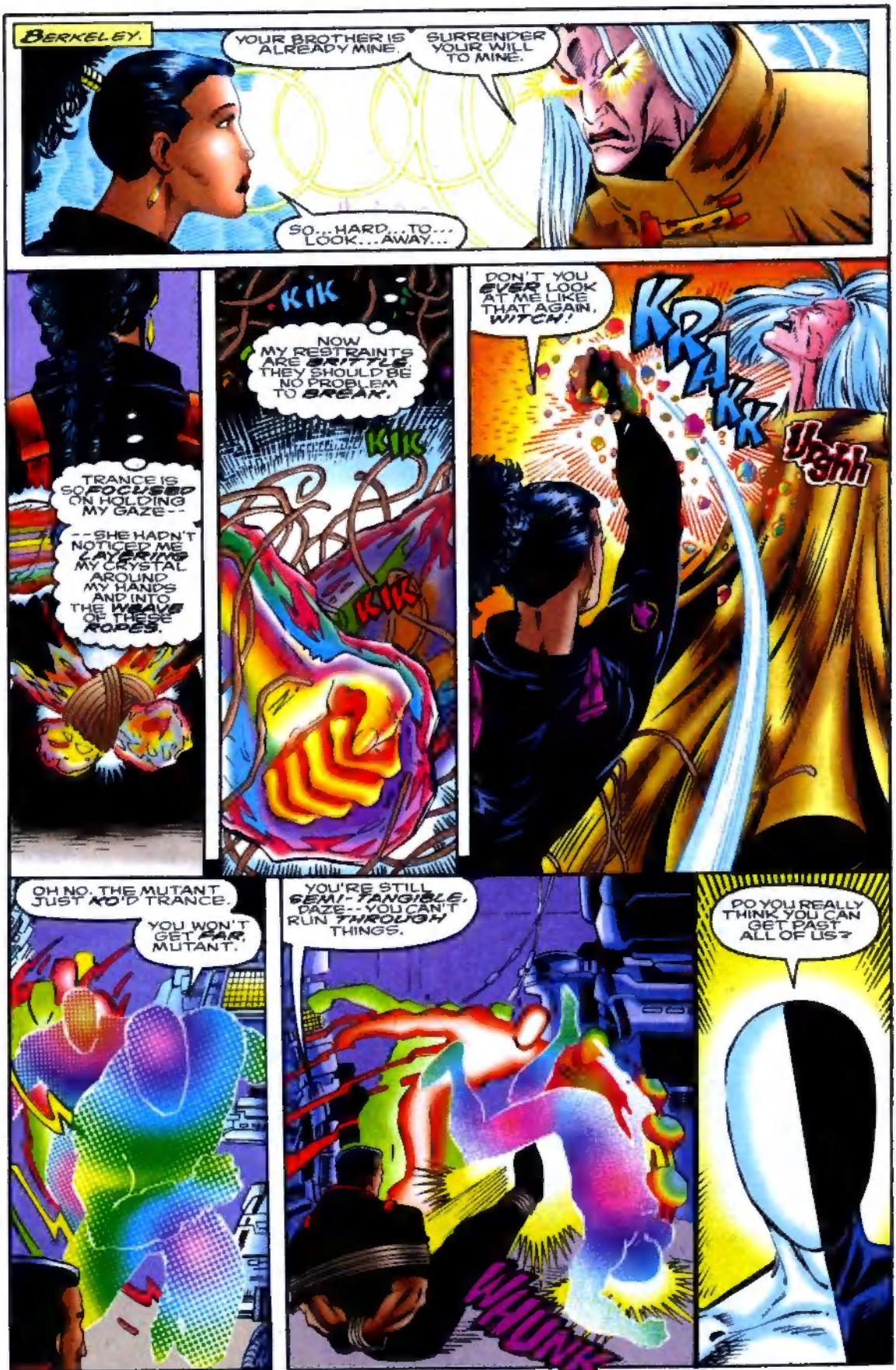

THAT WAS STUPID! DIDN'T EXPECT THE BOT'S ARM TO TELESCOPE.
SHOULDN'T HAVE ASSUMED THAT BECAUSE THIS CONSTRUCT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT HUMAN--
--IT WAS DESIGNED WITH THE SAME PROPORTIONAL LIMITATIONS.
I DON'T WANT TO DO IT THIS WAY.
MOM WAS RIGHT. DAD, YOU SHOULD'VE SENT THIS HUNK OF JUNK UP INTO SPACE WHERE IT WOULDN'T CAUSE ANYONE ANY TROUBLE.
OKAY, DAD... LET'S SEE HOW MUCH OF WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME I REMEMBER.
C'MON! C'MON! WHY ISN'T THIS CONSOLE RESPONDING?
I'M A TACTILE KIND OF WOMAN. I HATE PLUGGING IN.
GOTTA DO THIS FAST BEFORE I'M COMPLETELY MICROWAVED.

URRGH... THE ROBOT KEEPS INCREASING THE PRESSURE OF ITS GRIP.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN RESIST IT.
SYSTEM OVERRIDE. MANUAL CONTROLS ON-LINE
CREEEEAK!
YES!
LISTEN UP, MONSTROBOT! JADE SAYS, "FREEZE!"
HEY, HAWK. CONGRATULATE ME.
I GOT THE EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM UP AND WORKING.
THE LEAKS ARE BEING SEALED AND COOLANT IS DILUTING THE RADIATION-SOAKED HARDWARE.
ONLY ONE PROBLEM.
AND THAT IS...
I NEED YOU TO HELP ME DOWN FROM HERE.

WE WILL STILL HAVE TO DISPOSE OF THIS UNWIELDLY CREATURE.
WORKING OR DORMANT, THE BOT'S ATOMIC REACTOR CONTINUES TO POSE A DANGER TO THE ENVIRONMENT.
NOT TO WORRY. I'VE GOT THAT COVERED.
WOW. THIS IS EXHILARATING. FLYING, I MEAN. IF I COULD DO IT, I'D NEVER COME DOWN. YOU ARE SOOO LUCKY.
DO YOU EVER STOP TALKING?
NERVOUS HABIT. I'LL COLLAPSE FROM EXHAUSTION IN ABOUT A DAY OR SO.
SO TELL ME, DO YOU HAVE A REAL NAME OTHER THAN BLOODHAWK?
I SELDOM USE MY GIVEN NAME.
DON'T BE SHY. AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU CAN TELL--
SKREEEECH!

MS. JADE RYUTEKI -- WE REPRESENT THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE STARK/FUJIKAWA CORPORATION.
IT IS OUR CONTENTION THAT AS PER THE ACQUISITION OF JORURI ROBOTICS BY STARK/FUJIKAWA IN 2089 --
-- THE REBUILT BRAND RANGE WARRIOR 750 BELONGS TO OUR COMPANY.
LAWYERS.
BE ADVISED, SIR, THAT WE CAN PLACE A GENERAL RESTRAINING ORDER ON YOU BEFORE YOU TAKE ANOTHER STEP.
NOT TO MENTION THE DAMAGE SUIT WE WOULD BRING AGAINST YOU PURSUANT TO ANY PHYSICAL AND/OR EMOTIONAL INJURY AGAINST OUR PERSON.
CALM DOWN, HAWK. THESE GENTLEMEN ARE ONLY DOING THEIR JOBS.
IF YOU WILL SIGN THE ROBOT OVER TO US, WE CAN PART WITHOUT INCIDENT.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, ONCE I GIVE YOU MY SIGNATURE, I'M NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MONSTROBOT, RIGHT?
THAT IS CORRECT.
AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE TRANSFER HAS BEEN LEGALLY FILED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL HALL OF BUSINESS RECORDS.
THEN GIMME A PEN, BOYS.
PLEASE, UNDERSTAND, YOU HAVE FORFEITED YOUR RIGHT TO ANY APPEAL AND/OR ADJUDICATION.
I KNOW.


BRRRROOM
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I COULDN'T VERY WELL KEEP A FIVE STORY MONSTROBOT IN MY FLAT--
--AND WE COULDN'T LEAVE IT OUT HERE TO RUST EITHER.
STOLLER. CALL THE OFFICE. WE WEREN'T BRIEFED FOR THIS CONTINGENCY.
SO I DID WHAT SHOULD'VE BEEN DONE TEN YEARS AGO.
I ACTIVATED ITS SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISM.
IT'LL ROCKET SAFELY OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE--
--AND THEN IN A TOUCHING MOMENT OF SELF-SACRIFICE--
--IT'LL BLOW ITSELF UP.
END OF PROBLEM.


BERKELEY.
YOUR BROTHER IS ALREADY MINE.
SURRENDER YOUR WILL TO MINE.
SO...HARD...TO... LOOK...AWAY...
TRANCE IS SO FOCUSED ON HOLDING MY GAZE--
--SHE HADN'T NOTICED ME CAREFULLY MY CRYSTAL AROUND MY HANDS AND INTO THE WEAVE OF THESE ROPES.
KIK
NOW MY RESTRAINTS ARE BRITTLE. THEY SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM TO BREAK.
KIK
KIK
DON'T YOU EVER LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT AGAIN, WITCH!
KRAKK
Urghh
OH NO. THE MUTANT JUST KO'D TRANCE.
YOU WON'T GET FAR, MUTANT.
YOU'RE STILL SEMI-TANGIBLE, DAZE--YOU CAN'T RUN THROUGH THINGS.
WHUNK
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET PAST ALL OF US?